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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended; Claims 3-6 have had punctuation corrections made.

Claims 1-6 remain in the application.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simons (U.S. 752,004); and claims 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simons in view of Coolidge (U.S. 599,119).

Claim 1 has been amended to require that the central loop and the auxiliary loops be formed by joining opposed surfaces of the main strap member. This allows the loops to be formed from a single main strap member. Also, Claim 1, as amended, requires that the auxiliary loops extend from diametrically opposed spaced surfaces of the central loop. This allows the auxiliary loops to be easily slipped over the handle bars of the wheeled vehicle. It is believed that amended claim 1 is patentably distinct from the cited references, considered individually or in combination.

Claim 2 has been amended to require that all of the sling straps intersect each other and that they be connected to each other proximate their respective end points. This allows the ball carrier device to be manufactured with a minimum number of production steps. It is believed that amended claim 2 is patentably distinct from the cited references, considered individually or in combination.

No additional claim fee is required by this amendment.

In view of the above, it is believed that all remaining claims are now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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